



ORGANISATION MONDIALE CONTRE LA TORTURE
WORLD ORGANIZATION AGAINST TORTURE
ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL CONTRA LA TORTURA
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Case IDN/TMP 200999

The International Secretariat of OMCT requests your urgent intervention in the following situation in East Timor.

Brief description of the situation

The International Secretariat of OMCT has been informed of further massive human rights violations in East and West Timor.

According to the East Timor Human Rights Center (ETHRC), a member of the OMCT network, it has discovered evidence of an alleged Indonesian military intelligence death list. Apparently, the list targets East Timorese non-government organisations (NGOs), church leaders, members of the National Council of Timorese Resistance (CNRT) and foreigners.

The ETHRC has equally expressed its concern over death threats made by military and military-backed militia have also made death threats on family members of pro-independence activists.

It has been further reported that systematic violence against refugees continues. Reliable sources report that East Timorese people fleeing East Timor in their own transport are being summarily executed unless they have first obtained a letter from the militia. Between September 7 and 9, large numbers of young East Timorese men were shipped from Dili to Atapupu in West Timor. From Atapupu they were trucked towards Kupang. They young men were tied up. On the 9th of September, two truckloads of refugees were allegedly summarily executed attempting to cross the border into West Timor in Atambua. Numbers of the dead are not yet confirmed.

In addition, up to 40 square kilometers east of Atambua has been cleared of inhabitants. With the exception of those hiding in the mountains, a large tract of land in East Timor, west of Dili, has also been cleared of people.

It appears that a systematic campaign is being carried out to clear inhabitants along the border area of East and West Timor. It has been reported to the ETHRC that a number of refugees are located in several places in Flores. Women and children are also being forcibly deported to places as far away as Irian Jaya. The ETHRC is gravely concerned that these refugees will be unaccounted for in the following weeks, and will not be repatriated.

The humanitarian situation remains critical : the conditions of refugees are deteriorating as the numbers increase. Refugees are suffering from malaria, acute respiratory infections and gastro-intestinal diseases. The general hospital in Kupang is filled, and an epidemic of diarrhea is feared.

There are also alarming reports that the Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) government is anticipating a total of 200,000 to 300,000 refugees. (The NTT covers West Timor and Flores.) It is feared that plans to bring in further refugees exist.

The humanitarian situation continues to be aggravated by the presence of Indonesian military, colluding with military-backed militia in all refugee sites. Militia groups include Aitarak and Besi Merah Putih (BMP or Red White Iron.)

In another report, the East Timor Human Rights Centre has confirmed that East Timorese militia leaders believe that the Indonesian military (TNI) has plans to kill significant numbers of militia members., as it tries to eradicate evidence that the violence was not spontaneous.

Mrs. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has called for the establishment of an international court. OMCT unreservedly supports that view and urges that such a court be given full jurisdiction, empowered to investigate and sanction all human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Indonesian authorities in East and West Timor.

Actions requested

Please write to the Indonesian authorities urging them to :

- i. take immediate measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of the general population, refugees, internally displaced persons, UN, international and local human rights and humanitarian aid agencies personnel;
- ii. grant unconditional and unrestricted access to UN, international and local human rights monitors and humanitarian aid agencies to all areas of West and East Timor;
- iii. immediately arrest and sanction all those responsible for human rights violations against East Timorese civilians in East and West Timor.
- iv. ensure that people injured and tortured and the families of the persons killed and disappeared obtain adequate reparation;
- v. the safe repatriation of all East Timorese wishing to leave West Timor and the rest of Indonesia .
- vi. guarantee the effective respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards.

Please write to your own President urging her/him to :

immediately intervene before the United Nations to establish an international court with full jurisdiction, empowered to investigate and sanction all human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Indonesian authorities and militia in East and West Timor.

Addresses

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Geneva, 20 September 1999

Kindly inform us of any action undertaken quoting the code of this appeal in your reply